

December 13, 1967

Mr. Lester Markin  
65 West 56th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Lester:

I feel that you might wish to follow up on the U.S. slave ingot matter and thought you should have some information I have.

In the 1 March 1962 auction sale of Wallis & Wallis, Lewes, England, Lot 365 was an Irish St. Patrick farthing struck in gold. I did not know about it when I wrote "A Snake Breads a St. Patrick's Farthing" in the May, 1963 NUMISMATIST. In that article I pointed out that the silver farthings which had appeared in England in 1962 were forgeries.

When I visited Albert Baldwin in 1966 he humorously mentioned the gold item and said he wouldn't have touched it. It had been bought by Spink for \$500 at the sale and plaster casts sent to the B.M. and others for comment. No one had seen any such variety before. When I saw the casts I realized it was from the forged dies I had described. I took a train to Lewes and asked the auctioneer who conducted the 1962 sale what the consignor's name was and who received the money. He said it was sent in unsolicited by registered mail in a group of common coins and when it brought \$500 (the highest price coin sold in Wallis and Wallis history), the owner never even thanked or commented. We looked up the records and found that the coin was submitted by M. Sutton, Esq., c/o H.H. Grover, 23 Beauchamp Road, East Moseley. The auctioneer told me he knew Maurice Sutton but that Sutton couldn't have submitted the piece. I asked why not and he became angry and left.

When I wrote Grover and have a letter from Grover dated 3 Oct. 1966 saying that Maurice Sutton did submit the coin; that Sutton met Grover in London in 1966 and Sutton said that he had thought the coin only had a nominal value. At the next meeting Grover promised to ask Sutton where the coin came from and that was the last I heard from Grover although Albert Baldwin, (who knew Grover for many years) asked him to answer me also.

Page 2  
Mr. Lester Merkin

December 13, 1967

Grover was the person who called Spink's attention to the coin. Grover said he was present at the sale and I asked, to no avail, who bid against Spink. Grover just dropped the whole matter.

Now that you told me that Bryan W. Grover is the owner of the G. Blake forgery, I think it is not coincidental. He seems to be the front man for sales of forgeries. I suggest you write him and ask him where he obtained the lot. I also suggest you find a reason not to return it if you get it back from the police.

Please send me a photo of it in any event.

It is always nice to see you. Never a dull moment.

kindest regards,

EDIC P. WEHRMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPM  
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 25, 1967

Mr. Lester Merkin  
65 East 50th Street  
New York, New York

Dear Lester:

As you suggested, we obtained a photocopy of the Bank Leu-Kess sale of October 17-18, 1962.

The description of the Flake bar (Lot 1007) has the specific statement, "This ingot has been in the possession of one family for at least 50 years". This confirms what was told to you by Bryan Grover.

Achtung. I also note that Lot 1008 in that sale is an 1853 20 U.S. Assay Office piece described as "Sehr selten. FDC." Do you know if this coin had any connection with the "Munich" associate source? It is illustrated in the catalogue and looks beautiful. Will the next buyers tell you who submitted it, or who bought it, or if it was withdrawn?

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN  
sth

December 29, 1967

Mr. Lester Merkin  
65 East 56th Street  
New York, New York

Re: Garland vs. Ryan Arbitration

Dear Les:

I am enclosing letters to each of the arbitrators based upon our recent discussion. If you have any objection to my writing these letters, please let me know as I do not wish to send them without your blessing. If there is any inaccuracy, a correction can be made. If they are satisfactory, please drop them in the mail.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN/cal

Enclosures

*Handwritten notes:*  
1-2 1000 p. Salina had been  
1-2 1000 p. Salina had been  
1-2 1000 p. Salina had been  
1-2 1000 p. Salina had been

December 29, 1967

Mr. Bonnie Carr, Chf.  
Mr. Herbert M. Bergen  
Mr. Lester Merkin

Re: Garland vs. Ryan Arbitration

Gentlemen:

We feel it is important to report to you some findings which grew out of certain information which Lester Merkin mentioned to me.

Lester told me that the theretofore unknown "G. Blake Assayer" 1854 gold bar listed and illustrated as lot 1007 in the Oct. 17, 1962, auction sale of Bank Leu and Adolph Hess and described as being over 50 years in one family was stated to be a forgery by John J. Ford, Jr., and was withdrawn from sale. It was returned to Brian H. Grover, a coin dealer of East Woseley, England, who submitted it for sale. Grover subsequently sent it to Lester for further study when it was stolen from Lester's business premises. It was recovered by the authorities who now hold it as evidence.

In checking the sale catalogue, a photo copy of pertinent pages being enclosed, it can be noted that an 1853 120 U. S. Assay office 900 fine gold piece is listed as the next lot following the bar and it is described as in "Fleur du Coin" condition. This was therefore a gem coin as the illustration indicates. Its condition leads to the conclusion that it must have come from the "Humbert Associate Source." The association of the forged Blake bar and the USAOG item side by side in a European catalogue is not insignificant and Lester may be able to find out if Grover submitted the USAOG piece too and if it sold.

We can inform you that the same Brian H. Grover was involved in the auction sale in 1962 in England where a gold forgery of the St. Patrick's farthing was sold for \$500. (See "A Snake Breeds a St. Patrick's Farthing" in the May 1963 Numismatist where silver forgeries from the same false dies are described). Grover was asked to check the source of the gold forgery and became very vague. As you know, the alleged letters of the unlocatable F. Korff to Paul Franklin involve theretofore unknown Blake & Co. gold pieces of 1855.

Mr. Ronnie Carr, Chm.  
Mr. Herbert M. Bergen  
Mr. Lester Merkin

2

December 29, 1967

The USAOG piece in the 1962 Bank Leu sale seems to have had bad associates.

Happy New Year,

Eric P. Newman

EPN/cal

Enclosure

December 29, 1967

Mr. Lester Merkin  
65 East 56th Street  
New York, New York

Re: Garland vs. Ryan Arbitration

Dear Les:

I am enclosing letters to each of the arbitrators based upon our recent discussion. If you have any objection to my writing these letters, please let me know as I do not wish to send them without your blessing. If there is any inaccuracy, a correction can be made. If they are satisfactory, please drop them in the mail.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN/cal

Enclosures

# A. H. BALDWIN & SONS LTD.

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Coins & Medals: 01-930 6879  
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FUM/IF.

27th February 1974.

Mr. D.P. Morgan,  
100 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis 5,  
Missouri,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Sir,

The continuing saga of Patrick's pence ....

1. Grover really cannot remember whether a. he delivered Sutton's coins to Wallis's personally with the manuscript or whether b. they were sent direct to Wallis's and thence back to Grover, who at this time did their coin cataloguing for them. He would have thought a. but in view of you chatting up the girl in the office is quite prepared to believe b.

2. That the proceeds were paid to Sutton c/o Grover substantiates Grover's memory as being right, for he did not think he even took an introductory commission. Why should Sutton have thanked Wallis for a good price - he didn't know it was a good price. Nor would he have known that it broke a record.

3. Grover does not know Anthony Foley although he has heard the name, he believes as a gun dealer. He doesn't think Sutton knows Foley. Grover doesn't know Jane Block and wouldn't know whether Sutton does.

4. If the gold piece is from the same dies as proven silver forgeries, that settles it. No, I haven't read your article, which I would be interested to read.

5. Grover joint-purchased the G. Blake gold ingot with Crowther from an impeccable source in the City (Godfather of one of the Queen's children and all that). Crowther placed the piece in a Leu sale, at which point John Ford had the piece withdrawn as a forgery. Grover tells me he pronounced false the letter from the family giving details of the history of the piece.

I must send on the weights for you some time.

Yours sincerely,





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PDM/HW.

7th May 1974.

Mr. E.P. Newman,  
6450 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis 5,  
Missouri,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your letter of 26th March enclosing a copy of the St. Patrick's article. The delay is due to the fact that I was away for a fortnight and have been waiting to see Brian Grover.

The Blake gold ingot was bought from a gentleman in the City about ten years ago. I cannot give you his name but he is of good family and I understand is godfather to one of the Queen's children. It was bought jointly by Crowther and Grover, and you know the subsequent history. At the moment it is still jointly owned and has been in Grover's possession for the last six months. He meant to bring it in to show me last week but forgot. I am not sure what you mean by a letter which Grover pronounced false. The only letter that he remembers is that written by the gentleman's mother, who claimed that it had been in the family for some time, and we would suppose that she would be about 100 years old by now. He is not sure whether he can find the letter at home, but he thinks he could produce a copy of it for you, though you might well have seen it.

Yours sincerely,



REGD. NO. 162789 LONDON

11 ADELPHI TERRACE REGD. OFFICE  
LONDON WC2N 6BJ

Bankers National Westminster Bank Ltd  
60 4005 24525146

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Coins & Medals 01-930 6879

War Medals & Decorations 01-839 1310

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Directors P D Mitchell D D Mitchell A I K Baldwin Established 1872

NUMISMATISTS

PDM/HF.

23rd May 1974.

Mr. E.P. Newman,  
6450 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis 5,  
Missouri,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Eric,

Your letter of 13th May to hand. My letter of 27th February was ambiguous in that in the last sentence "he" is John Ford, making "Grover tells me John Ford pronounced false the letter from the family ....." Grover thinks he still has the letter and I will send you a copy.

Yours sincerely,





1008



✓ 1007



1009



1006



XXXII



Valuable, privately struck fifty dollar piece.



California State Assay Office bar, issued in 1850. U. S. Assay Offices made similar pieces, particularly "The United States Assay Office of Gold," San Francisco.



Small, unidentifiable gold bar, made early in the Gold Rush, to satisfy a strong demand for convenient mediums of exchange. Of interest, but most collectors prefer bars and ingots bearing the maker's name and location.



Unusually pure, long bar, made by Bates, Baxter & Co., about 1865, Mountain City, (Central City Dist.), Colorado Territory.



The fractional note at right was printed in Albany, N. Y., and was intended for use, 1851-52, in San Francisco. Several firms made and issued their own paper money in the West, 1850-1897. Bank, Express and Mining Company drafts and checks are also of interest to collectors. While hardly as valuable price-wise as are many bars and ingots, such paper script is of great historical importance. Still, this money you can't spend is often worth more than the regular kind.



Gold ingot for \$272.23, made in New Mexico Terr., 1870-75.

At right, an aluminum or mixed metal assay ingot, issued at famous Virginia City, Nevada, by L. Kuh, a Chinese assayer, in the heyday of the great Comstock Lode.



Silver bars are often found. This one, dated 1880, came from the Silver King mine. A great difficulty is locating date concerning these pieces.



## WRITE TO JOHN J. FORD, Jr.

COMPILER, THE SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE OF U. S. GOLD COINS, BARS AND INGOTS.

176 HENDRICKSON AVENUE

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, L. I., NEW YORK

MEMBER AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
LIFE MEMBER, NO. 250, AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSN.  
NUMISMATICOS,

FELLOW OF ROYAL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY,  
SOCIEDAD IBERO-AMERICANA DE ESTUDIOS  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Send detailed description or careful pencil rubbing of any bars or ingots located;  
other material describe very carefully.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE ANSWERED. INFORMATION EXCHANGED, APPRAISALS GIVEN IN CONFIDENCE.

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*and other places*

by **Q. David Bowers**



with Michael Hodder, *Research Associate*



*Foreword by Kenneth E. Bressett*

17-18 Oct 1962 Auction

BANK LEU & CO. AG

Nunismatische Abteilung  
Bahnhofstraße 32, Zürich  
Telephon 23 16 60

ADOLPH HESS AG

Haldenstrasse 5  
Luzern  
Telephon 2 43 92

- 1004 20 \$ 1913 S. E.f.
- 1005 20 \$ 1924 D. E.f.
- \*1006 20 \$ 1924 S. E.f.
- \*1007 California Gold. GORHAM BLAKE, ASSAYER. Sacramento, \$ 33.68. Ingot 1854. G. BLAKE/ASSAYER/  
SAC.CAL. Rv. 33.68 (inkus) DOLLS. 900 (inkus) THOUS./1854. in Linienviereck. 57,3 g. Unique.  
Extremely fine.  
This is the first example of Gorham Blake's name alone on an ingot, and it is one of the heaviest recorded. This  
ingot has been in the possession of one family for at least 50 years.
- \*1008 UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE. 20 Dollars 1853. Adler mit Band im Schnabel. Darüber Band mit 900  
THOUS. Rv. UNITED STATES ASSAY/OFFICE OF GOLD/SAN FRANCISCO/CALIFORNIA.  
1853. Fr. 185. Sehr selten. FDC.

47



1008



1007



1009



1006



1010

# GOLDPRÄGUNGEN

## DES MITTELALTERS UND DER NEUZEIT

MONNAIES ET MÉDAILLES EN OR - EUROPE ET OUTREMERS  
GOLD COINS AND MEDALS - EUROPE AND OVERSEAS  
GOLDMÜNZEN UND GOLDMÉDAILLEN - EUROPA UND ÜBERSEE

Bedeutende Serien von Dänemark, Deutschland, England, Frankreich,  
Italien, Niederlande, Polen,  
Römisch-Deutsches Reich, Rußland, Schweiz, Nord- und Südamerika



### AUKTION

*Mittwoch, den 17., und Donnerstag, den 18. Oktober 1962,  
vormittags 9 Uhr,  
im Hotel Schweizerhof, Luzern*

**BANK LEU & CO. AG**

*Numismatische Abteilung  
Bahnhofstrasse 32, Zürich  
Telephon 23 16 60*

**ADOLPH HESS AG**

*Haldenstrasse 5  
Luzern  
Telephon 243 92*





1008



1007



1009



1006



1011



1010



1012



1017



1016



1022



1020



1015



760



1023





- 976 10 \$ 1908 S. E.f.
- 977 10 \$ 1911 D. V.f.—e.f.
- 978 10 \$ 1913 S. V.f.—e.f.
- 979 10 \$ 1915 S. V.f.
- 980 20 \$ 1852 O. F.
- 981 20 \$ 1854. V.f.
- 982 20 \$ 1855. V.f.
- 983 20 \$ 1858. V.f.
- 984 20 \$ 1858 O. F.
- 985 20 \$ 1870. V.f.
- 986 20 \$ 1871. V.f.—e.f.
- 987 20 \$ 1878 CC. F.—v.f.
- 988 20 \$ 1879 CC. V.f.
- 989 20 \$ 1880. V.f.
- 990 20 \$ 1883 CC. E.f.
- 991 20 \$ 1884 CC. E.f.
- 992 20 \$ 1889. V.f.
- 993 20 \$ 1890. E.f.
- 994 20 \$ 1890 CC. V.f.—e.f.
- 995 20 \$ 1892 CC. E.f.
- 996 20 \$ 1893 CC. E.f.
- 997 20 \$ 1901. E.f.
- 998 20 \$ 1902. E.f.
- 999 20 \$ 1905. E.f.
- 1000 20 \$ 1906. E.f.
- 1001 20 \$ 1908 S. V.f.
- 1002 20 \$ 1909 over 1908. V.f.
- 1003 20 \$ 1909 D. E.f.
- 1004 20 \$ 1913 S. E.f.
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